



# TO A CHRISTIAN IN THE ARMY

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MY DEAR BROTHER :—I need hardly remind you that your present situation has much that is unfavorable to the culture of the Christian graces. The very idea of war implies as much. You are removed from the restraints of Church, family, social life, and a regulated public opinion ; and exposed to scenes in camp, that are unfriendly to virtue as well as piety ; the more often in contact with ungodly, and often sceptical men, who sneer at all religion as delusive, or deceptive ; and compelled to witness sin so constantly, that you are in danger of losing that horror of it which you ought constantly to cherish. The force of these things is mournfully attested by the number of professed christians, who have fallen away in the army, marking a sorrowful career which beginning at the communion table, ends in the grave of the drunkard, the blasphemer or the gambler. That these influences may be counteracted is proven by the many bright examples of those who have shown that a christian soldier is as possible now as it ever has been. Pardon then a few suggestions to enable you to be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

1. Remember that you are a witness for Jesus in your present position, and that your obligations are increased rather than lessened by entering the army. That "light of the world" and "salt of the earth," that is so needful in the quiet of peaceful society, is much more needful in a state of things where thousands of men are brought together under circumstances likely to develop all that is evil in their hearts, many of whom are to die away from the influences of religion, and the rest to return home to communicate there the moral character they have formed in the

deeper reproof to the heart than the most cutting words could have done. Love, love of Christ and love of souls, will always be an infallible guide in such things.

7 Keep eternity in view as constantly as possible. You may be ushered into it in the twinkling of an eye, and therefore, should have it always before you, a radiant light to guide you, a joyous prospect to cheer you, a glorious hope to strengthen you. You will thus be prepared for the summons, let it come as it may, and be ready to enter into the joy of your Lord.

In one word, keep your religion always close to your heart. A soldier in one of our battles, was saved from death by a Testament in his breast pocket which arrested the ball that was aimed at his heart. Had it been in his tent, or his knapsack, or any where but just where it was, lying close to his breast, it could not have saved him. Let the word of Christ rest thus close to your heart, and it will keep it warm, shield it from the fiery missiles of the evil one, cheer and guide it in life, and in death light it joyously through the dark valley.

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## THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY. S. M.

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| 1 With brave but beating heart,    | 4 A victory we have,               |
| We marched to meet the foe,        | Because thou helped us Lord.       |
| Uncertain what should be our       | Else we'd been covered by the      |
| part—                              | wave†                              |
| Who should in death lie low.       | And fallen 'neath the sword.       |
| 2 We longed the day to win,        | 5 To thee the praise is due,       |
| And drive the invader back.        | To thee our thanks we give.        |
| Thus we would help a peace to      | O help us love and serve thee too, |
| gain,                              | And to thy glory live.             |
| The blessing that we seek.         | 6 And when comes our last fight,   |
| 2 Thy goodness, Lord, we tell      | That fight which all must make,    |
| We bless thy wondrous grace.       | Bring us off conquerors, through   |
| While bullets flew, and many fell, | thy might,                         |
| We did not end our race.           | For our Redeemer's sake.           |

† CXXIV, Psalm, verses 4 and 5.

